From: Dolan, Aline
To: 'microsoft.atr(a)usdoj.gov'
Date: 1/7/02 11:54am
Subject: It's the Law! Under DoD you can ONLY buy Microsoft. We've mandate d their monopoly!

I'm scared of Microsoft as a company. I'm not scared of many things in
life, but they scare me. Maybe it's irrational, but I don't think so. I
have watched over the years as they've misrepresented one thing and another.
I told a friend, who is a Microsoft Certified Engineer, that I used Linux
for my home desktop system, not being able to afford Microsoft, and he was
amazed that I could use a 'command line interface' as "You're not a
programmer!" It turns out he was told in his MS certification class that
Linux was a command line OS understandable only by programmers. FOAD, which
equates to Fear, Uncertainty, and Doubt is the program that Microsoft has
launched against any competitor, without an iota of truth, but what can a
little guy do against them?
Now they have .Net, and I see a future where no one but Microsoft customers
will be able to access the Internet in the US. Right now, I often have to
come to work to view a web site as it's been written in MS FrontPage. Many
web sites written with FrontPage 4.0 are unviewable to any browser not
running on a Microsoft Platform, as FrontPage does not follow the W3C
standards when creating a web site. Why should they bother to write a web
page composer program which runs in any other browser? That defeats their
purpose.
MS was bundling FrontPage with their office suites, which means their
customers won't look for another web composer. Since these people are not
web designers, they don't understand the reason FrontPage is a damaged
product. It looks fine in their Internet Explorer, so it must be a great
page right? I try to do research for a paper for my class, and I can't
read 25% of the web sites I hit. When .Net becomes the norm, I'll have to
learn French or German in order to surf the web anymore.
For an example of what Microsoft has done to the world as a whole, just look
around your offices. The Department of Defense will allow no other
operating system to be used, because they're stuck in the proprietary
upgrade loop. Many other Government offices have the same mandate. The US
Government puts millions of dollars per year into MS's pocket, because they
were conned early on and now they *think* they're stuck. The decision
makers are getting advice from NT engineers who are desperate to save their
jobs, and tell lies like 'Linux is a command line interface users won't be
able to understand.' Or maybe, like my friend, they just don't know they're
lying.
I work as an NT admin for the Navy. In just the last six months, my command
has spent over $20,000 for products which are available without additional
cost under Red Hat's Linux distribution. To date, the software on servers
and machines at this tiny dental command has cost close to $65,000. Under
RedHat Linux, it would have been under $10,000 for everything (or you cold
just by pass RedHat and download it all for free). It's nuts that we're
forced to do this.

I wish I had time to make this more compelling, but I'm on my lunch break at work now. Ironically, the web site where I found your address is a mess in my browser at home, as it was written in FrontPage. I'm sure it's out there on a page I could read, but I'm too busy to go looking. As a side note, I can read less than one half of the Government web sites on the web, as most of them were created in Frontpage, or deliberately written to work only in Internet Explorer. I work for the Naval Dental Center, but at home I can't access my eMail or get updates or notices, because I don't use Microsoft at home, and I don't think it's right that I should have to pay over $5,000 to replace all of my current software with Microsoft software. I'm a taxpayer too. Don't I have the right to view pages made with tax dollars? Oh well, that's another rant altogether.

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